

What is claimed is:

1. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly comprising:
  - an upper shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first upper parting edge, a second upper parting edge, an upper shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, and a plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners;
  - a lower shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first lower parting edge, a second lower parting edge, a lower shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, and a plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners;
  - a first side elongated guide post and a guide post receiver, and a second side elongated guide post and guide post receiver that cooperate to align the lower shroud with the upper shroud;
  - a plurality of first parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of first parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge, that cooperate with each other to hold the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge in alignment with each other; and
  - a plurality of second parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of second parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge that cooperate with each other and hold the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge in alignment with each other.
2. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners has a retainer ledge with a cam surface for urging the upper shroud toward the lower shroud; and each of the plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners has a retainer ledge with a cam surface for urging the lower shroud toward the upper shroud.
3. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein the upper shroud includes a plurality of upper shroud stabilizer posts that limit deflection of the upper shroud toward the lower shroud; and
  - a plurality of lower shroud stabilizer posts that limit deflection of the lower shroud toward the upper shroud.

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4. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of first parting edge snap receivers include a first snap holder wedge surface that urges the upper shroud and the lower shroud toward each other; and

wherein each of the plurality of second parting edge snap receivers include a second snap holder wedge surface that urges the upper shroud and the lower shroud toward each other.

5. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 1 including an upper shroud guide blade that extends forwardly from an upper shroud interior surface and that axially positions the upper shroud along an axis of an upper steering shaft during mounting of the upper shroud on a steering column assembly.

6. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 5 including an upper shroud guide post that limits rotation of the upper shroud in one direction about the axis of the upper steering shaft.

7. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 1 including an upper shroud guide post extending inwardly from an upper shroud interior surface and that limits rotation of the upper shroud in one direction about an axis of an upper steering shaft.

8. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly comprising:  
an upper shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first upper parting edge, a second upper parting edge, an upper shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, a plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners, and a plurality of upper shroud deflection limiting posts;

a lower shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first lower parting edge, a second lower parting edge, a lower shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, a plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners, and a plurality of lower shroud deflection limiting posts;

a first side elongate guide post and a first side guide post receiver, and a second side elongated guide post and a second side guide post receiver that cooperate to align the lower shroud with the upper shroud;

a plurality of first parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of first parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the first upper parting edge and the first

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lower parting edge, that cooperate with each other to hold the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge in alignment with each other; and

a plurality of second parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of second parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge that cooperate with each other and hold the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge in alignment with each other.

9. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein each of the plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners has a retainer ledge with a cam surface for urging the upper shroud toward the lower shroud; and each of the plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners has a retainer ledge with a cam surface for urging the lower shroud toward the upper shroud.

10. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein each of the plurality of first parting edge snap receivers include a first snap holder wedge surface that urges the upper shroud and the lower shroud toward each other; and

wherein each of the plurality of second parting edge snap receivers include a second snap holder wedge surface that urges the upper shroud and the lower shroud toward each other.

11. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 8 including an upper shroud guide blade that extends forwardly from an upper shroud interior surface and that axially positions the upper shroud along an axis of an upper steering shaft during mounting of the upper shroud on a steering column assembly.

12. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 11 including an upper shroud guide post that limits rotation of the upper shroud in one direction about the axis of the upper steering shaft.

13. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly as set forth in claim 8 including an upper shroud guide post extending inwardly from an upper shroud interior surface and limits rotation of the upper shroud in one direction about an axis of an upper steering shaft.

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14. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly mounting method for attaching an upper shroud and a lower shroud to a steering column assembly comprising:

moving an upper steering shaft passage portion of the upper shroud into contact with said steering column assembly to radially position the upper steering shaft passage portion relative to an upper steering shaft;

moving an upper shroud guide blade into contact with said steering column assembly to axially position the upper shroud relative to the upper steering shaft;

rotating the upper shroud relative to upper steering shaft to move a guide post on the upper shroud into contact with said steering column assembly and angularly position the upper shroud about the upper steering shaft;

moving a plurality of upper shroud cantilevered snap fasteners into contact with said steering column assembly;

forcing the upper shroud manually toward said steering column assembly until the plurality of upper shroud cantilevered snap fasteners snap into an upper shroud retaining position and secure the upper shroud to said steering column assembly;

moving a pair of alignment posts into telescopic engagement with a pair of alignment post receivers to align the lower shroud with the upper shroud;

moving a plurality of lower shroud cantilever snap fasteners into contact with said steering column assembly; and

forcing the lower shroud manually toward the upper shroud and said steering column assembly until the plurality of lower shroud cantilevered snap fasteners snap into a lower shroud retaining position and secure the lower shroud to said steering column assembly.

15. A snap-on steering column shroud assembly mounting method as set forth in claim 14 including forcing a plurality of parting edge snap connectors and into engagement with parting edge snap receivers to connect the parting edges of the upper shroud with the parting edges of the lower shroud.

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